

Association Information

Association Development

"It's been needed for a long time." That is the reaction of most faculty, staff and Alumni of Mohawk College upon hearing that an Alumni Association has been formed.

Since the first of Mohawk's predecessor institutions, the Provincial Institute of Textiles, put out its first graduating class, Alumni affairs have been a fairly low-key aspect of the institution's history. In fact, little was done in this area at all until 1970 when the first college-wide Alumni association was formed.

The Association passed a constitution and played a leading role in organizing 25th Anniversary celebrations for the College and its predecessor institutions in 1972.

The first president of the original Association was Al Arnold, a graduate of the Hamilton Institute of Technology who joined the Mohawk College teaching staff in 1967. Mr.

Arnold spearheaded a committee to develop a student centre at the Fennell Campus. Following his death in 1971, the centre was named in his honor. In 1975, the Arnold Centre was opened officially by his mother, Kathleen.

For many reasons, primarily burn-out on the part of its most active members, the original Association died out in 1976.

Between 1976 and 1979, there were no serious attempts to rekindle a college-wide Alumni Association. There were, however, several efforts at organizing Alumni groups for the graduates of individual programs. Among these, the Nursing Alumni Chapter was perhaps the most successful and is still flourishing. Other program Alumni groups which carry on today with varying degrees of activity are Social Service Worker, Legal Secretarial and Insurance Administration.

Efforts to form a group for the graduates of

the three-year Business Administration Program are still underway.

A number of the student clubs, such as the Chemistry and Architecture clubs, stage events to which program Alumni are invited to meet the students and discuss careers in these areas.

By 1979, renewed efforts to form a college-wide Alumni association had started among the members of that year's Students' Representative Council. Brian Miki, one of the two Applied Arts and Business representatives on that council, undertook a report on the value of an Alumni Association to Mohawk College and passed it to the Students' Union Corporation (S.U.C.) for its consideration.

Two years later, the Student Activities Department was given responsibility for Alumni affairs and, with funding from the S.U.C., undertook extensive research into the formation of a college-wide Alumni association.

From the outset, this research showed that a full-time staff member would be required to co-ordinate the development of the Association, (especially the updating of the Alumni mailing list), and provide effective liaison between the College administration and the Association.

Mohawk became the first community college in Ontario to hire a full-time Alumni affairs staff member in February, 1983, when John Bruce was hired to co-ordinate the development of the Mohawk College Alumni Association.

In the past 14 months, the pace of Alumni developments has picked up dramatically. The College Board of Governors has approved the creation of an Interim Board of Directors for the Association which is now working on a constitution, programs and services, and financial ways and means to keep the Association afloat.

The Association has access to approximately 8,000 accurate names, addresses and phone numbers for the Alumni through an on-line computer system. It also has full-time administrative support.

The majority of the background work needed to determine the parameters of the Association was done through the efforts of the Mohawk College Alumni Association Ad Hoc Committee last summer and fall.

Elsewhere in these pages you will find more information on the Association, its internal structure, its programs and services and its plans for the future.

All of these relate directly to the goal of the Association which is to allow its members "through their own participation" to help Mohawk College provide the best-possible education for its students and to help the Association grow and prosper.

The College administration, the faculty and the Students' Representative Council are solidly behind the Association in deed as well as word. Most of its financing comes from Administration and student activity fee money. Hopefully our Mohawk College Alumni Association will come to be regarded in the same manner as our Alma Mater itself — the best in Ontario!